UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Washington, D. C.

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OUTLINE OF PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE COOPERATIVE PROTECTION OF CROPS AGAINST MORMON CRICKETS DURING 1938

Last year the program for control of Mormon crickets, involving an expenditure of approximately $1,000,000, was aimed primarily at the protection of agricultural crops and comprised control activities on less than three percent of the total area known to be infested.

In spite of the large scale control activity of last season, forecasts based on fall population and egg deposition in and adjacent to the area treated last season indicate an even heavier infestation this year.

There is need for additional research directed at this insect and methods of controlling it, as well as more experience in the application of control measures before it is believed practicable to consider a program directed at suppression of this pest in non-agricultural areas. Therefore, it is believed such cooperative efforts as may be made this year should be limited very largely if not entirely to crop protection.

In view of these considerations there follows an outline of the 1938 Mormon cricket control program approved by the Secretary of Agriculture and involving expenditures of Federal funds appropriated for the control of incipient or emergency outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases including Mormon crickets, under conditions and means determined by the Secretary of Agriculture as most advantageous to the Federal Government:

1. Primary emphasis of Federal cooperative activities is to be directed at agricultural crop protection which involves:

(a) Heavy migratorial infestations in or near agricultural lands of sufficient concentration and productivity as to demand and justify cooperative Federal-State assistance. Control in areas of isolated farm land or of light infestations to be left to the attention of individuals or local communities to whom dusting machines, dust materials, and instructions in the use of same may be issued when the conditions demand.

(b) Combatting crickets on agricultural lands as described above, or on areas immediately adjacent thereto, except when advantage may be taken of geographical barriers in the immediate vicinity where migratorial bands of crickets may be more advantageously and economically suppressed, such as mountain passes and mouths of gorges through which crickets may pass, or where consideration should be given to rivers and streams which might aid in the dissemination of crickets.

2. Mormon crickets present an interstate problem involving several States and requiring coordinated efforts which are essential to effective operation. The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine will therefore assume supervisory responsibility for the control operations. This action contemplates close cooperation with, and the fullest possible utilization of, State and county crop pest control agencies and trained personnel. It is not expected that entomologists connected with the Experiment Stations, the Extension Service, the State Colleges, or the State regulatory offices will be able to devote the necessary full time to the actual supervision of the control program which may be required, but they will be expected to collaborate with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and the Mormon cricket field project leader in planning and reviewing the work in their respective State and they will be consulted on procedure and provided with information on the progress of the work.

3. Methods of application or attack will be those approved by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

4. Federal participation will be provided only in States and counties in which State, county, or community contributions in the form of dusting machines, dust materials, oils, labor, or transportation are provided as hereinafter indicated.

5. States desiring Federal assistance will provide:

(a) The technical and advisory assistance of an entomologist or pest control official of the State, satisfactory to the State and to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, to act as State Leader.

(b) The assistance of one or more qualified men to be selected and paid by the State, county, or community in which cooperative work is conducted, who will assist in the planning and supervising of the local cooperative activities.

(c) Furnish necessary transportation of laborers and the local hauling of materials and equipment to be used in the county or community.

(d) Provide adequate local storage and mixing plants.

(e) Provide all additional dust materials and oil needed to supplement that previously purchased by the State, county, or community which is now in storage.

6. The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine will establish a field headquarters at a centrally or satisfactorily located point with such sub-offices as may be deemed necessary and will employ a field project leader, who will be responsible to the Bureau for the supervision of this project, and a supervisory staff who, under the project leader's supervision and in conjunction with persons assigned by the State, county, or community, will plan, supervise, and direct the work of laborers in distributing poison dust, placing barriers, and carrying out other protective measures.

In addition to the foregoing, Federal funds may be used where necessary for:

(a) The employment of laborers for distributing poison dust and erecting and maintaining barriers.

(b) The limited purchase of light power or hand dusting machines and materials for metal barriers.

7. Heavy power dusters, in addition to those now owned by local agencies or individuals and available for Mormon cricket control, can be effectively and economically used in this program. No provisions have been made in this program for the purchase of these machines, and in view of the seasonal and temporary nature of this cooperative work, the Federal Government cannot provide heavy power dusters. However, when States, counties, or communities pledging funds for the purchase of dust materials or oils will use such funds for the purchase of power dusters, the Federal Government may purchase dust materials or oils in a sum equal to that expended by local agencies for power dusters. As a further alternative, if a county or community is unable to provide funds for the purchase of dust materials and oil but can furnish necessary labor, then the Federal Government may undertake to supply the necessary dust materials and oils.

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Approved:

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